



# DHHS Gazette

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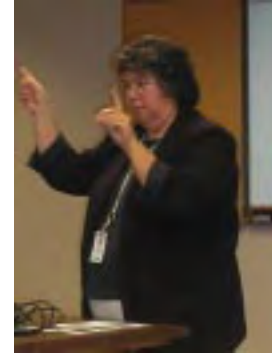
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Read about an outstanding volunteer

## DHHS PRESENTS INFORMATION TO HEALTH CARE COUNCIL



Deka Oliver, Program Coordinator for Indiana Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services (DHHS) recently gave a presentation to members of the Rural Underserved Access to Health (RUAH) a council under St. Vincent Health. This organization serves the Indiana counties of Clinton, Howard, Madison, Randolph, Clay, Jennings, Fountain and Warren. Council members serving Marion and surrounding counties were also in attendance. The presentation focused primarily on accessibility issues and on working with interpreters. St. Vincent contacted Oliver in hopes of gaining information on how best to offer appropriate services to Deaf clients that enter their system. According to Sherry Gray, Project Director for St. Vincent Health, "We are continuing to work on our access and availability to appropriate interpreters...Deka was great and the information was so great to have!" The presentation contained information on Title II and III of the ADA and resource information from the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Law Center and the Department of Justice. Oliver also offered insight on how to request an interpreter, the right to ask for an interpreter's credentials, and general communication tips when working with an interpreter. Concerns from the Deaf Community were presented such as facilities refusing to provide interpreters, expecting the patient to bring their own interpreter, or the medical personnel harboring offensive attitudes or offering unqualified interpreters. This presentation provided a greater awareness of the Deaf Community's rights and expectations. Oliver stated, "I anticipate an improved service on obtaining interpreters during our visits at medical facilities." St. Vincent has also requested a presentation for providers.

## ICRID ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Indiana Chapter of Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (ICRID) will host its annual Conference and Business Meeting on November 17 & 18, 2006 at the Fort Wayne Marriott, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Many workshops for community and educational interpreters will be offered. This is an excellent opportunity to improve your skills, gain additional knowledge and collect those CEUs! The conference opens with registration from 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Friday morning and concludes with a Dinner/Business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday's schedule begins with Registration/Continental Breakfast from 7:30 a.m.–8:30 a.m. and concludes at 5:30 p.m. The Luncheon/Keynote/Awards will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. A silent auction is also planned. Registration forms have been distributed to all ICRID members or you may download a registration form and obtain additional workshop information at [www.ICRID.org](http://www.ICRID.org). Send completed registration forms and checks payable to ICRID, to Nancy Young, 4221 Medina Way, Indianapolis, IN 46227 or contact her at [NY4IU@aol.com](mailto:NY4IU@aol.com).

## New Maya & Miguel Episode Helps Raise Deaf Awareness

Taken From a News Release by the National Association of the Deaf

New York, NY — Maya & Miguel, the award-winning children's bi-lingual (Spanish-English) animated series on PBS KIDS GO!, launched its third season with a special episode that presented insights and understanding about the challenges of learning another language — sign language. Inspired by the personal story of Maya & Miguel star Lupe Ontiveros, who is a mother of two deaf sons, "Give Me A Little Sign" aired on September 25 on PBS KIDS GO! during National Deaf Awareness Week (September 24–30) and will be broadcast in open caption.

"Embracing differences and accepting others have always been at the core of every Maya & Miguel episode, and 'Give Me A Little Sign' is another excellent example of that commitment..." said Deborah Forte, President of Scholastic Media and creator of Maya & Miguel

"This Maya & Miguel episode will make a significant contribution to deaf awareness," said Bobbie Beth Scoggins, President of the NAD. "'Give Me A Little Sign' is not only a technical triumph of successfully incorporating American Sign Language into an animated program, but also a monumental breakthrough for accessibility through airing the premiere episode with open captions visible to all audiences."

# Interpreter's Turn

## Interpreters Gone to the Dogs?

Two Indianapolis interpreters have joined forces to crusade for the lives of a misunderstood breed of canines. Stacey Coleman and Amanda Mueller are members of Indy Pit Crew, an all volunteer non-profit group dedicated to ending pit bull overpopulation in Indianapolis. The organization also campaigns to eradicate dog fighting in the city. Indy Pit crew is a grassroots movement that has been successful in influencing local legislation that affects the welfare of the pit bull. Working directly with communities that are known for dog fighting or pit bull overpopulation, they offer free spay/neuter services and education about dog fighting. Most people are not aware that dog fighting is a felony in Indiana. The biggest challenge faced is overcoming public perception of pit bulls. The breed has been portrayed as vicious by the media, yet in reality they are the most victimized companion animal in the history of our country.



Kenya, recently rescued, is living in a foster home with an IPC volunteer.

Some statistics on the breed:

- The American Temperament Test Society determines the soundness of a breed's temperament; pit bulls achieve a passing rate of 83.9%, golden retrievers, 83.2%, beagles 78.2%.
- Pit bulls may not like other dogs (this is true of other breeds too) but a well adjusted pit bull is EXCELLENT with people.
- Pit bulls are loyal, determined, funny (furry clowns that make you laugh!) and yes, are very strong. A pit bull may not be the dog for everyone. But with the right owner they make excellent, loving companions.
- Helen Keller owned a pit bull, Petey from the little Rascals was a pit bull, and during World War I pit bulls were an American mascot because they are so loyal.
- Pit bulls and pit bull mixes make up 40% of the dogs in local shelters.
- Most are never adopted.
- Indianapolis kills more than 3,000 of these dogs every year.

Coleman explained her initial experience. "I first became involved with pit bulls when I picked up a dog that was being kicked by a man outside of an office building. The man was afraid and the dog had no idea that somebody would even think twice about being her friend. I opened my door and said 'Little dog, what are you doing?' and that little dog got in my car and she is now one of my very best friends. Her name is Gertie and she is why I am working so hard to help these dogs. Gertie is so sweet and so gentle; she won't even let the cats fight! She will separate them and make them stop. I call it her "Oprah Moment."

Mueller too is an owner of a pit bull. "My husband, Jon, & I fell in love with our first pit bull when Ann Reifel (Director of the ASL program at Vincennes University) gave us a cute little stray deaf puppy. It was after this puppy, Sierra, was part of our family that we found out she was a "pit bull."

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## TRAINING IN INDIANA

**November 4, 2006** – Saturday  
 Reciprocity Through Learning  
 Speaking Like a Hearing Person:  
 Register & Idioms in Voice Interpretation  
 Instructor: Rebecca Madigan & Amanda Mueller  
 Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 RID, ACET, IIC and EIC (Cat. 1,2)  
 Location: Easter Seals Crossroads  
 Information: Amy Evans  
 (317) 479-3240 or e-mail  
[dcsterps@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:dcsterps@eastersealscrossroads.org)

**November 9, 2006** – Thursday  
 ASL Coffeehouse  
 Presenter: Jerry Claus  
 Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 Location: The Crossings Café  
 Goshen, Indiana  
 Info: [www.goshen.edu/asl](http://www.goshen.edu/asl)

**December 2, 2006** – Saturday  
 Time: 9:00a.m - 12:00 TBA  
 Understanding the ADA  
 Time: 1:00p.m. - 3:00p.m.  
 Presenter: Robin Deykes, DOJ  
 Location: Easter Seals Crossroads  
 Information: Amy Evans  
 (317) 479-3240 or e-mail  
[dcsterps@eastersealscrossroads.org](mailto:dcsterps@eastersealscrossroads.org)

**January 13, 2007** – Saturday  
 Mental Health Interpreting  
 Instructor: Carrie Westhoelter and Mary Alka  
 Time: 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.  
 Location: TBA

**February 3, 2007** - Saturday  
 Presenter: Kristina Riley  
 Linguistics - Topic TBA

**March 3, 2007** - Saturday  
 Presenter: Kristina Riley  
 Linguistics - Topic TBA

### State Conference

**ICRID**  
 2006 Annual Conference & Business Meeting  
 Date: November 17 – 18, 2006  
 Location: Fort Wayne, Indiana  
 Information: [www.ICRID.org](http://www.ICRID.org)

### Interpreters

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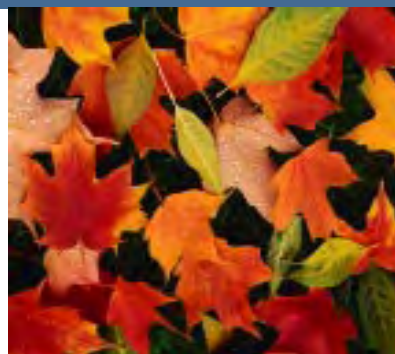
(Sierra happens to also be three legged due to a bout with cancer two years ago – she's fine now!) This frightened us because all we ever saw was the negative media hype about the dogs. Yet, we *knew* Sierra. She was gentle, loyal and loving. Confused by all the stereotypes that were out there we decided to do our own research. After finding out the facts, well, the rest, as they say is history. Sierra has been part of our family for 9 years and is the best dog EVER ~ ok so maybe I'm a little biased."

"I took in my first foster dog, Rosie, last April. Fostering has been a lot of work! However, the life lessons on love, patience, caring for others who are less fortunate, and responsible pet ownership have been invaluable to my family, especially my young boys. Every heartache has been worth it because with every moment there is much more joy given to us by these loving, trusting and *kind souls*."

If you are interested in more information about pit bulls, volunteering to foster a dog, or adoption procedures, please contact [www.indypitcrew.org](http://www.indypitcrew.org).

Stacey Coleman is a graduate of the Vincennes University American Sign Language program. She is currently working as a freelance interpreter.

Amanda Mueller, CI/CT, is also a freelance interpreter and mother of two "defenders-of-the-universe-boys" Dexter, age 5 and Caden, age 2.



**DHHS**  
 DEAF AND HARD OF  
 HEARING SERVICES

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Website:  
<http://www.in.gov/fssa/disability/dhhs>

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 Contracts Program Director and  
 Certification Coordinator

**Deka Oliver**  
 IIP and CEU Program  
 Coordinator



# Deaf Community Volunteer

The Indy Area Deaf Community News, or IDN, has faithfully informed Deaf Community members of upcoming events and news items for the past nine years. We would like to give you the opportunity to become acquainted with Bob Canty, the man behind the weekly newsletter.

Canty was born in Newburgh, New York to hearing parents. He graduated from the New York School for the Deaf in 1957, entered Gallaudet College and received a Graphic Arts degree in 1960. From there he worked as the Recreation Director at the NY Deaf School. He started his media career at Captioned Films for the Deaf (CFD) as a supervisor, and transferred to Indianapolis to become assistant director after the three CFD libraries merged. In 1987 he became Media Coordinator at the Indiana School for the Deaf, retiring in 2000.



Today, Canty is very involved in his community. As a former member of the Board of Interpreter Standards, a committee created to establish interpreter certification in the State of Indiana, he contributed to the standards set for interpreters. He teaches ASL to community classes, belongs to the Christian Life Church of the Deaf and holds memberships in the IAD, NAD, RID, GUAA, ICRID, Indianapolis Deaf Club and the Willard ASL Teacher's Association. He also volunteers at the Indiana School for the Deaf during sporting events and at a nursing home for the Deaf. In addition to all of these activities he is founder and editor of IDN.

Canty explains the origin of the newsletter. In the spring of 1998, he and two ladies were discussing conflicting dates for some Deaf Community events such as meetings, socials, and workshops. They wanted to devise a source for community news and events in the Indianapolis area. Canty thought "Why not use e-mails to the Deaf Community to announce the coming events, happenings and so on?"

He decided to try sending news to those who have access to the internet. He typed the known current and coming events and e-mailed about 4 pages of information to 20 friends and asked them to forward that to others. The first weekly Indy Area Deaf Community News was published on April 26, 1998. A few days later he started receiving requests to add e-mail addresses to his distribution list. The word spread throughout the Deaf Community. The list grew to 235 subscribers by April 24, 1999, 550 by 2001, 730 by 2004 and 1450 as of September 30, 2006. There is no charge for a subscription but donations are accepted and a fee is charged for business advertisements, employment opportunities, and items for sale. For those without internet access, the newsletter can be sent by mail for a small fee. Last year, the publisher of Deaf Times in Rochester, NY requested the IDN subscribers list be added to their list along with other Deaf e-newsletters in other states. That way the Deaf Times can send out special announcements to over 30,000 subscribers at once.

Canty manages this invaluable source of information by himself. The e-newsletter is published weekly except during his vacation week. He occasionally receives news items from friends and has his wife to help with proofreading when necessary. The goal of the IDN is to have everyone in the Deaf Community know what is going on in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. "If people are happy getting news from Indy Deaf News, I am happy" says Canty. Many thanks for the hours this valued community member donates to keep us all informed. For additional information via e-mail contact IDN500@aol.com.